Approved For Release 2007/10/19 : CIA-RDP88B00443R001103900126-2

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

10 November 1981

The Honorable Charles Rose
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Rose:

Thank you for your letter of 19 October. There is ample room for improvement in our product and we need an independent view of it, however critical.

You note that these memoranda are not intended to be balanced. I hope that other Members also understand that, and do not base their view of our work entirely on staff comments of this kind. Consultation with Community personnel responsible for an estimate would provide more context. One needs to know why an estimate is written, what problems were encountered in its production, and how it relates to other Community output in order to treat it objectively. We would like to encourage discussions with your staff, like those on the terrorism paper, after completion of each estimate.

Thank you also for your praise of that SNIE. It was indeed a painful process, but I am proud of the final product.

Finally, I too would like to continue an informal dialogue on these matters. Our goal is of course to maintain our standards at the highest level, and I welcome constructive criticism to that end.

Sincerely,

/S/

William J. Casey

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